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"The thing under my bed waiting to grab my ankle isn't real. I know that, and I also know that if I'm careful to keep my foot under the covers, it will never be able to grab my ankle."

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WSP Regulation Manual

Investigatory procedures, chapter 6.

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2012 0 NOTES SHARE THIS

WSP Leaks

Please investigate WSP CID leaks of investigatory information to media in violation of section 6L, Verbal Release of Information Before Action By Prosecutor as described and detailed below:

1. Seattle Weekly: When reached by phone yesterday by Seattle Weekly, WSP Spokesman Bob Calkins was asked if the name Tamara Dutton rang a bell. "You mean in the Aaron Reardon case?" he asked, unprompted, before explaining that he couldn't comment.

RULE 6 L: The following information shall not be released: Statements concerning the credibility or anticipated testimony of prospective witnesses and their identity.

2. Seattle Times: Detectives with the Washington State Patrol, which is investigating whether Reardon misused county funds, have no doubt that Dutton and Reardon had an affair, according to a law-enforcement source close to the investigation. "I believe she's being truthful, and everyone who's dealt with her believes she's being truthful," the source said of Dutton.

RULE 6 L: The following information shall not be released: Opinions about a defendant's character, guilt, or innocence; Statements concerning the credibility or anticipated testimony of prospective witnesses and their identity; Opinions concerning evidence or argument in the case, whether or not it is anticipated that such evidence or argument will be used at trial.

3. Seattle Times: But the county's travel records are in such disarray — with incomplete or even missing documentation — that detectives' work has been hampered, the source said… If proof of misuse of public money is found, it could lead to felony charges, the source said.

RULE 6 L: The following information shall not be released: Opinions concerning evidence or argument in the case, whether or not it is anticipated that such evidence or argument will be used at trial.

Note: The State Auditor officially found "no reportable conditions" and stated that no evidence of impropriety was uncovered. The auditor told Snohomish County finance staff that the WSP comments did not reflect official findings.

4. Seattle Times: A handwritten note on the county's credit-card statement says a $50.60 charge to the hotel's honor bar mistakenly was charged to the county's card. Reardon's secretary called the hotel and had the charge — which investigators have learned was for an "intimacy kit" — removed and charged to Reardon's personal card.

RULE 6 L: The following information shall not be released: Opinions concerning evidence or argument in the case, whether or not it is anticipated that such evidence or argument will be used at trial.

5. Seattle Times: The State Patrol is interviewing some of Reardon's employees about their roles in his campaign last fall. In particular, they want to know about an employee who requested records from the Mill Creek Police Department about a traffic stop involving his opponent, Hope. The employee requested the records using a different first name.

RULE 6 L: The following information shall not be released: Statements concerning the credibility or anticipated testimony of prospective witnesses and their identity;

Note: Herald reporter Noah Haglund states he is apprised of WSP communications with potential witnesses, emails colleagues of individual who asked to retain counsel prior to interviewing. Haglund cites a source close to the investigation and asks why individual is "not cooperating" with WSP investigation.

Please investigate these apparent breaches of policy at your earliest convenience.

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2012 0 NOTES SHARE THIS

Herald continues irresponsible reporting on Reardon issue

HeraldNet
Everett, Washington

Aaron Reardon used public resources to raise campaign cash, records show

Government office and phone used in Snohomish County executive's re-election effort

Footnotes:

1. State law allows officials to place campaign events on public calendar. 124 hours over nine months equals about two hours per week of scheduled campaign events.

2. State law allows the use of public phones for scheduling purposes. Further, many donors are also people who interact with County government on a daily basis. The Herald implies that a donor should not be able to contact a politician. This is simply not true. Nearly every teacher is a political donor. Millions of Americans donated to President Obama. Does the Herald feel that teachers shouldn't be able to speak to legislators? Should carpenters be prohibited from discussing county code if their union donates to a county candidate? The Herald provides no proof of wrong doing and instead attempts to trick readers by misportraying state law.

3. This claim is not accurate based on the evidence provided in the story. This is a possibly defamatory accusation built upon the mistruths in (2).

4. The Herald refers to "work hours" multiple times during their story. The County Executive is on duty 24 hours per day. It is not a 9-5 position. The Herald knows this, but in a lazy attempt to prove a point they cannot arrive at based on the evidence, they attempt to trick readers into thinking that the Executive is somehow tied to a set schedule. We have already discussed the overlap between donors and constituents. The individual in question is reportedly an energy lobbyist. The Herald needs to prove otherwise without using made up unnamed sources, or retract.

5. Herald omits fact that public resources such as calendar and phones can be used to schedule campaign events. Herald provides no proof to refute Reardon explanation of such. Another unsourced accusation. Notice how the Herald puts this false premise directly before Reardon's legal explanation, which thye cannot counter.

6. The State Auditor officially cleared Reardon of misuse of funds in this matter last week. The Herald is aware of this fact.

7. Dutton has provided no proof to support her claims. An examination of SnoCo documents by the State Auditor has failed to back up her claims.

8. Lazy journalism 101. If you can't find a source, make one up. Who are the people referred to in this passage? If North can't site them, they don't exist.

9. Again, no proof provided that Reardon did anything other than schedule events, which is legal.

10. Ten hours of time over nine months works out to about 20 minutes per week. Considering that Reardon was both scheduling campaign events with Underwood and working on County matters, this does not seem unusual at all, which is why the Herald adds it all together and neglects to provide further detail. Ten hours sounds much worse than 20 minutes a week. The Herald is not interested in truth.

11. Editor Scott North, in earlier articles in this vein, ridiculed a Reardon staffer for attempting to provide information without attribution. The Herald would never grant anonymity to a public employee making $60,000/year. Since that statement, North has repeatedly used unnamed sources – but only if they line up against Reardon. Lazy journalism, dishonesty, lack of integrity. North has it all.

12. This portion of the article was subject to TWO separate print corrections due to inaccurate claims and unsourced allegations made by North. He was forced to correct the record both times. He has a long history of publishing inaccurate material if it supports his preconceived story line.

13. Key point here. The accusations leveled against Reardon fall under the jurisdiction of the PDC, a quasi judicial entity. The PDC is not investigating Reardon. However, the State patrol and the Herald are attempting to paint Reardon's legal actions – which wouldn't be a police matter even if the accusations were true – as "proof" of their claims.

14. Again, the facts of the matter refute Herald claims. However, Herald chooses to reject the on the record explanation provided by Reardon and the callers listed here and instead chooses to place more value in unnamed sources and unproven allegations that they self-advance. Journalists are required to source all material, and to further evaluate their sources for credibility. North/Haglund/Herald does none of the above.

15. THE STATE PATROL IS LEAKING INFORMATION in direct violation of ABA guidelines and their stated mission. Hmmm. Why does the Herald bury this key bit of information??? This is a rhetorical question.

16. The State Open Records act allows for the immediate deletion of any emails that don't relate to the running of government. A personal conversation between Reardon and the woman could be legally deleted the day it was created. It is not a public record.

17. The State Auditor found "No reportable conditions". Reardon was cleared of financial impropriety.

TAGS > herald, aaron reardon, scott north, investigation, somers

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2012 0 NOTES SHARE THIS

Auditor clears Reardon of Impropriety

The State Auditor's Office has cleared Executive Aaron Reardon of accusations relating to misuse of travel funds. State Auditor Brian Sonnetag released a letter last week stating that a comprehensive audit of Snohomish County financial records found "no reportable conditions".

The finding from the State's top financial watch dog backs up numerous internal audits conducted by the County finance department, and calls into question the accusations of the County employee who admits that her accusations were prompted by the end of her supposed affair with Reardon.

Further, interviews with many of the donors identified by the release of Reardon's County phone records revealed that the calls were unrelated to his campaign and instead dealt with the day to day running of the County.

State law allows elected officials to use their county-issued phones and calendars for the scheduling and planning of campaign events. The PDC encourages candidate to keep on central calendar for transparency purposes.

A media examination of Reardon's calendars and phone records revealed that Reardon – who is on duty 24 hours/day as the County's top elected official – spent about two hours each week on campaign related events.

The Daily Herald and the Seattle Weekly have previously reported that the woman in question was associated with the Mike Hope campaign as early as June. Hope repeatedly tried to use the woman's story to smear Reardon's image – even resorting to a salacious website. The woman okayed the use of her image and story for campaign purposes.

In addition, the Hope campaign facilitated the woman's last second meeting with Councilmember Dave Somers, who called for an investigation into the woman's claims only days before Reardon won re-election. Somers, a longtime enemy of Reardon, has continually offered comment throughout the investigation disparaging Reardon.

Yesterday, Somers' issued a press release stating that he was "distracted" by the investigation he initiated, and as such, he thought Reardon should step down.

Reardon has angered Somers in the past by vetoing Somers' pay raise (Somers wanted his salary to be increased into the mid six figures during the worst economic downturn in the modern era). Reardon has also repeatedly vetoed Somers' efforts to raise taxes.

After Somers called for an investigation into the woman's claims, the Hope campaign worked feverishly to get the story out to reporters prior to the election. Coincidentally, (or not), the State Patrol "accidently" leaked word that an investigation into Reardon had begun. The WSP spokesperson leaked this info four days prior to what many thought would be a very close election. Hope, who is also a police officer, ended up losing by ten percentage points despite the leaked investigation.

Four months later, the open-ended investigation continues despite no findings of wrongdoing, and press reports have revealed that the woman has stated on several occasions that she hopes to "ruin (Reardon's) career" and damage his marriage. The woman chose Valentine's Day as the date to appear on TV, slamming Reardon with unsourced accusations of spending violations.

Somers has not commented on the apparent credibility issues surrounding the key component of his investigation. Somers granted the woman whistleblower status after hearing her story in November. It has since been revealed that Somers was aware of the fact that the County had previously paid off the woman with a $500,000 settlement after she accused co-workers at the Denny Youth Center of harassment.

The State Patrol has continually leaked prejudicial material to the media, including an incident last week in which an unnamed state patrol source told the Seattle Times that the County's record was missing documents and that existing records "were in disarray". The State Patrol provided no evidence of this claim, and the Auditor later issued a letter clearing Reardon of financial impropriety. It is a violation of State Patrol internal policy and American Bar Association guidelines for investigators to leak material during an ongoing investigation.

To date, the State Patrol has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and the better part of four months investigating the claims of a jilted lover brought forth by Reardon's political enemies. No evidence of wrong doing has been identified.

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> "(Dutton) wrote that she could ruin his marriage and ruin his chances of ever being an elected official again. She was saying things like 'how could you do this to me?' and 'I could ruin you.'"

The Seattle Weekly … revealing that the woman behind Councilmember Dave Somers' self-styled investigation into Executive Aaron Reardon… has a bit of an agenda.

TAGS > blackmail, aaron reardon, investigation

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2012 0 NOTES SHARE THIS

> "We found no reportable conditions…and found sufficient controls to account for travel purchases."

State Auditor Brian Sonnetag's official statement, clearing Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon of charges that he misused funds for the purpose of travel.

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Somers "distracted" by his own investigation, wants Reardon to step down

Yesterday, County Councilmember Dave Somers' issued a press release stating that he was "distracted" by his self-prompted investigation into County Executive Aaron Reardon, and that he thought Reardon should step down.

Somers' self-issued press release comes only days after the State's top financial watch dog Brian Sonnetag cleared Reardon of allegations of financial impropriety brought forth by the investigation Somers launched last November.

Somers, a longtime enemy of Reardon, has continually offered comment throughout the investigation disparaging Reardon. Reardon angered Somers in the past by vetoing Somers' self approved mid six figure pay raise. Reardon has also repeatedly vetoed Somers' efforts to raise taxes.

To date, no evidence of wrong doing has been uncovered, but Somers' key witnesses' credibility has been called into severe doubt by recent findings.

The Seattle Weekly revealed that the woman has repeatedly stated that she hoped to ruin Reardon's career and marriage - and that she's been saying this for some time:

"(Dutton) wrote that she could ruin his marriage and ruin his chances of ever being an elected official again. She was saying things like 'how could you do this to me?' and 'I could ruin you.'

In addition, The Herald and the Weekly reported that the woman in question was associated with the Mike Hope campaign as early as June. Hope repeatedly tried to use the woman's story to smear Reardon's skueaky clean image – even resorting to a salacious website. The woman okayed the use of her image and story for campaign purposes.

The Hope campaign facilitated the woman's last second meeting with Councilmember Dave Somers after repeated attempts to interest the media in stories of an affair failed. Somers called for an investigation into the woman's claims only days before Reardon won re-election.

After Somers called for an investigation into the woman's claims, the Hope campaign worked feverishly to get the story out to reporters prior to the election. Coincidentally, (or not), the State Patrol "accidently" leaked word that an investigation into Reardon had begun. The WSP spokesperson leaked this info four days prior to what many thought would be a very close election. Hope, who is also a police officer, ended up losing by ten percentage points despite the leaked investigation.

Four months later, the open-ended investigation continues despite no findings of wrongdoing, no evidence of wrongdoing, and revelations that the "whistleblower" brought forward accusations that turned out to be baseless. The woman chose Valentine's Day as the date to appear on TV, slamming Reardon with further unsourced accusations of spending violations.

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